

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**COMMITTEE ON THE  
JUDICIARY**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

ADOPTED JANUARY 22, 2009

**MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**  
**ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS**

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JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan, *Chairman*  
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JERROLD NADLER, New York  
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia  
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ZOE LOFGREN, California  
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MAXINE WATERS, California  
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts  
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HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., Georgia  
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CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, Texas  
ANTHONY D. WEINER, New York  
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California  
LINDA SÁNCHEZ, California  
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Florida  
DANIEL MAFFEI, New York  
[Vacant]

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F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR., Wisconsin  
HOWARD COBLE, North Carolina  
ELTON GALLEGLY, California  
BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia  
DANIEL E. LUNGREN, California  
DARRELL ISSA, California  
J. RANDY FORBES, Virginia  
STEVE KING, Iowa  
TRENT FRANKS, Arizona  
LOUIE GOHMERT, Texas  
JIM JORDAN, Ohio  
TED POE, Texas  
JASON CHAFFETZ, Utah  
TOM ROONEY, Florida  
GREGG HARPER, Mississippi

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

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**Rule I.** The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on the Judiciary and its Subcommittees with the following specific additions thereto.

### **Rule II. Committee Meetings**

- (a) The regular meeting day of the Committee on the Judiciary for the conduct of its business shall be on Wednesday of each week while the House is in session.
- (b) Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman and a regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with when, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need therefor.
- (c) At least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session) before each scheduled Committee or Subcommittee meeting, each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be furnished a list of the bill(s) and subject(s) to be considered and/or acted upon at the meeting. Bills or subjects not listed shall be subject to a point of order unless their consideration is agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the Committee or Subcommittee.
- (d) In an emergency that does not reasonably allow for 24 hours' notice, the Chairman may waive the 24-hour notice requirement with the agreement of the Ranking Minority Member.
- (e) Committee and Subcommittee meetings for the transaction of business, i.e. meetings other than those held for the purpose of taking testimony, shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the meeting because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.
- (f) Every motion made to the Committee and entertained by the Chairman shall be reduced to writing upon demand of any Member, and a copy made available to each Member present.
- (g) For purposes of taking any action at a meeting of the full Committee or any Subcommittee thereof, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of not less than one-third of the Members of the Committee or subcommittee, except that a

full majority of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation from the Committee or Subcommittee, closing a meeting to the public, or authorizing the issuance of a subpoena.

- (h)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.
- (2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify Members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.
- (3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.
- (i) Transcripts of markups shall be recorded and may be published in the same manner as hearings before the Committee.
- (j) Without further action of the Committee, the Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

### **Rule III. Hearings**

- (a) The Committee Chairman or any Subcommittee chairman shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee, or Subcommittee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or Subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman or Subcommittee chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.
- (b) Committee and Subcommittee hearings shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the meeting because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement infor-

mation, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.

- (c) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence before the Committee or any Subcommittee, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of two Members.
- (d) In the course of any hearing each Member shall be allowed five minutes for the interrogation of a witness until such time as each Member who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.
- (e) The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee which are decided to be printed shall be published in verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. Individuals, including Members of Congress, whose comments are to be published as part of a Committee document shall be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription in advance of publication. Any requests by those Members, staff or witnesses to correct any errors other than errors in the transcription, or disputed errors in transcription, shall be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Prior to approval by the Chairman of hearings conducted jointly with another congressional Committee, a memorandum of understanding shall be prepared which incorporates an agreement for the publication of the verbatim transcript.

#### **Rule IV. Broadcasting**

Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio and still photography except when the hearing or meeting is closed pursuant to the Committee Rules of Procedure.

#### **Rule V. Standing Subcommittees**

- (a) The full Committee shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: copyright, patent, and trademark law, information technology, tort liability, including medical malpractice and product liability, legal reform generally, and such other matters as determined by the Chairman.
- (b) There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on the Judiciary, with jurisdictions as follows:
  - (1) *Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy*: anti-trust law, monopolies, and restraints of trade, adminis-

tration of U.S. courts, Federal Rules of Evidence, Civil and Appellate Procedure, judicial ethics, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

- (2) *Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties*: constitutional amendments, constitutional rights, federal civil rights laws, ethics in government, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.
  - (3) *Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law*: bankruptcy and commercial law, bankruptcy judge-ships, administrative law, independent counsel, state taxation affecting interstate commerce, interstate com-pacts, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.
  - (4) *Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security*: Federal Criminal Code, drug enforcement, sen-tencing, parole and pardons, terrorism, internal and homeland security, Federal Rules of Criminal Proce-dure, prisons, criminal law enforcement, other appro-priate matters as referred by the Chairman, and rel-evant oversight.
  - (5) *Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law*: immigration and naturalization, border security, admission of refu-gees, treaties, conventions and international agree-ments, claims against the United States, federal char-ters of incorporation, private immigration and claims bills, non-border enforcement, other appropriate mat-ters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant over-sight.
- (c) The Chairman of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member thereof shall be ex officio Members, but not voting Members, of each Subcommittee to which such Chairman or Ranking Minority Member has not been assigned by resolu-tion of the Committee. Ex officio Members shall not be counted as present for purposes of constituting a quorum at any hearing or meeting of such Subcommittee.

#### **Rule VI. Powers and Duties of Subcommittees**

Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, re-ceive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective Sub-committees after consultation with the Chairman and other Sub-committee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous

scheduling of full Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

#### **Rule VII. Non-Legislative Reports**

No report of the Committee or Subcommittee which does not accompany a measure or matter for consideration by the House shall be published unless all Members of the Committee or Subcommittee issuing the report shall have been apprised of such report and given the opportunity to give notice of intention to file supplemental, additional, or dissenting views as part of the report. In no case shall the time in which to file such views be less than three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

#### **Rule VIII. Committee Records**

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use according to the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

#### **Rule IX. Official Committee Website**

- (a) The Chairman shall maintain an official website on behalf of the Committee for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House.
- (b) The Chairman shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded in the full Committee available on the Committee's official website not later than 3 legislative days after such vote is taken. Such record shall identify or describe the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of the Members voting present.
- (c) The Ranking Member is authorized to maintain a similar official website on behalf of the Committee Minority for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.